

- (a) whether it is a fact that lots of agricultural population and village artisans will be displaced by acquisition of lands for Special Economic Zones;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details thereof,
- (c) whether all of them will get employment in SEZs; and
- (d) if not, the alternative proposed to be made available to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) In the 234 valid formal approvals granted till date the extent of land involved is 33,807 hectares of which approximately 17,800 hectares of land was already in the ownership/possession of State Industrial Development Corporations. The rest of the lands were those which were already in the possession of the developers. Thus in all these 234 cases, there was no fresh acquisition of land. However, in respect of the 162 in principle approvals granted, either the State Governments have initiated land acquisition proceedings or the developers are directly purchasing the land. Since land is a State subject, acquisition of land comes under the purview of the State Governments. Under the provisions of the Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 and the Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006, SEZs can be set-up only in vacant and contiguous land. Each State acquires land for various purposes including for SEZs and has its own compensation and Relief & Rehabilitation measures depending upon the requirements and necessities of respective States. However, the Ministry of Rural Development is currently formulating a revised rehabilitation policy namely the National Rehabilitation Policy 2007 with the objective to minimize displacement and to promote, as far as possible, non-displacing or least displacing alternatives, ensure adequate rehabilitation packages and expeditious implementation of the rehabilitation process with the active participation of the displaced persons. As and when the new policy is implemented, it will apply to acquisition of land for industrial projects including SEZs.

SEZ in Bihar

898. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

[7 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether there is any proposal to establish Special Economic Zone in Bihar, as in other States;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would be very helpful for the development of Bihar if Special Economic Zone is established in Bihar; and

(d) whether Government would consider it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) One proposal for setting up of a Sector Specific Special Economic Zone (SEZ) for Steel in Patna, Bihar has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes Sir. The main objectives of the SEZ Act, 2005 are generation of additional economic activity, promotion of exports of goods and services, attracting investment from foreign and domestic sources, generation of employment opportunities and development of infrastructure facilities. Therefore, setting up of SEZs is expected to bring overall development.

(d) Central Government considers only such proposals which satisfy the requirements laid down in the Special Economic Zone Act, 2005 & the Special Economic Zone Rules, 2006 and are duly recommended by the concerned State Government.

Problem in acquisitions of land for SEZs

899. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for setting up Special Economic Zones (SEZs) received so far and out of that which are the approved ones;

(b) whether there have been problems in the acquisition of land for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to solve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Since the operationalisation